[24th November 1955

(*d*) the average annual profit during the past three years from the said factory;

(*e*) the relative advantages and disadvantages between the reconstituted milk and toned milk;

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM: (*a*) The cost of machinery originally set up in the Government Milk Factory for the production of reconstituted milk was Rs. 3,32,835.

(*b*) No additional machinery has so far been set up for the production of toned milk in the factory.

(*c*) The present normal daily production of toned milk in the factory is about 4,000 to 5,000 lb.

(*d*) The average of the profit for three years ending 1953–54 is Rs. 25,471.

(*e*) The Expert Committee constituted by the Government under the Chairmanship of Dr. Lakshmanaswamy Mudaliar to examine the working of the Government Milk Factory, reported that the preparation of reconstituted milk was not satisfactory as shown by the biological examination of the nutritive value of the reconstituted milk. The Government on the recommendation of the Expert Committee, have therefore ordered the manufacture of toned milk in the factory, which has been found to be equivalent in nutritive value to fresh cow's milk on analysis by the Biochemistry Department of the Madras University.

Hospitals and rural dispensaries without doctors

* 2816 *Q.*—SRI N. K. PALANISAMY: Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state the number of hospitals and rural dispensaries in the State that are without doctors from 1st January 1955?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY: The number of hospitals and rural dispensaries that were without doctors for short periods from 1st January 1955 are 20 and 68 respectively.

SRI N. K. PALANISAMY: May I know whether there is any proposal before the Government to provincialize the rural dispensaries and hospitals?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY: There is a proposal for provincializing some of them during the Second Five-Year Plan period.

SRI K. ARANGANATHAN: May I know whether any dispensary has been closed for a short time during this period?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY: That is what I said. Twenty regular hospitals and dispensaries and 68 rural dispensaries remained closed.

24th November 1955]

SRI V. R. KRISHNA AYYAR : It is certainly a very unsatisfactory state of affairs that hospitals without doctors should exist in the State during the First Five-Year Plan and the Second Five-Year Plan periods. May I know whether the Government propose to solve the problem by increasing the salary of the doctors to be appointed?

THE HON SRI A. B. SHETTY : When the institutions are provincialized, they would be given better scales of pay. I hope that with the starting of a new Medical College for which provision is made in the Second Five-Year Plan, the number of doctors aslo will increase.

SRI K. VINAYAKAM : May I know, Sir, what work was exactly done in those hospitals and dispensaries in the absence of doctors? Was any medicine catered to the patients that came there and if so, by whom? Or, what happened to the medicines that were stored there? Were they all stolen away or pilfered away? What was the work done in those hospitals in the absence of doctors? 9-40 a.m.

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY : I have said that the hospitals and rural dispensaries were closed only for a short period till another doctor was posted to that place.

SRI S. RAMALINGAM : The Hon. Minister stated that the Government are considering a proposal to open another medical college. Is it at Tanjore, Sir.

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY : It may be opened at Tanjore, Sir, if there is good response from the local people and if a good portion of the amount is met by them.

SRI P. K. GOPALAKRISHNAN : Sir, we are told that at a Planning Board meeting, this Government have been asked to drop the proposal to open a medical college in Madras during the Second Plan and now it is stated that the Goverment want to open a medical college. Is it because that the Government have decided to separate Malabar? May I know, Sir, the correct position?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : The hon. Member is referring to something which happened in the Planning Board about which my hon. Colleague is not aware. Therefore, I may state that the Planning Commission is of the opinion that perhaps there may not be any necessity to have another medical college in our State. But, still we continue to press upon them that we should be permitted to open one more.

SRI V. R. KRISHNA AYYAR : Now that it is fairly certain that one more medical college is to be started, will I be letting out a secret if I say that the Government of Madras are struggling hard to have it in Kozhikode?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY : Perhaps struggling hard to prevent the college being located at Kozhikode! That is what the hon. Member wants me to say.

[24th November 1955

SRI K. VINAYAKAM : Sir, some three years back, the Hon. Minister for Health presided over a function in Ponvilanthakalathur near Chingleput to open a dispensary. On the same occasion, Dr. Varadarajalu Naidu also took part in that function. The hospital is still there without a doctor. Subsequently, it was known that no medicines were available. Only the closing ceremony was not presided over by a Minister. Does the Hon. Minister know all these things, Sir?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY : This joke has been repeated *ad nauseam*. I do not think the hon. Member is giving any new information.

SRI K. PARTHASARATHY : Sir, when fully qualified medical practitioners are not available for appointment in rural dispensaries the Government have been appointing B Class practitioners for these dispensaries. Is it a fact, Sir, that even B Class practitioners are not available in sufficient numbers? Have the Government any proposal to train persons emergently to fill up the vacancies in the meantime before another medical college is established?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY : Government have stated, Sir, that hereafter B Class practitioners who have not been trained in any institution recognized by the Government, should not be appointed to these dispensaries.

Exemption from sales-tax

* 2817 *Q.*—SRI V. R. KRISHNA AYYAR : Will the Hon. the Minister for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have received representations from the Tellicherry Milk Union in 1954–55 requesting for exemption from sales-tax for co-operative milk unions; and

(*b*) whether any decision has been taken thereon?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU : (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) At present sales-tax on sales of milk is levied only at one point, viz., the stage of sale to the consumer and this too only in respect of sales effected by milk supply societies and unions. The Government have decided that there are no grounds for granting total exemption in respect of all sales of milk.

SRI V. R. KRISHNA AYYAR : Since the infant unions find it very difficult to compete with small milk vendors and since it is very useful to have milk unions in every small town, may I know whether the Government have any proposal to make the first ten years of the union's life free from sales-tax for milk sales?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU : Sir, co-operative milk societies were paying sales-tax at different stages. Now we are levying it only at one stage. Unless there are some strong grounds, it will not be possible to consider the request.